

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**STATE GRANT WILL HELP RETRAIN 250 LAID-OFF WORKERS
IN MADERA COUNTY**

SACRAMENTO – An \$800,000 grant from the state Employment Development Department (EDD) will help retrain 250 workers who lost their jobs when one of the largest employers in Madera County – Z Foods -- closed.

“This grant gives the Madera County Workforce Investment Board funding to retrain these dislocated workers and provide the services they need for successful re-entry into a labor force outside of the agriculture area,” said EDD Chief Deputy Director Pam Harris.

The retraining will focus on high-wage, high-growth occupations such as: healthcare, transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing, and renewable energy. Services to the dislocated workers will include assessments, workshops, retraining and job placement.

For many of these laid-off workers, English is a second language. The grant will also help these individuals prepare for taking the GED to obtain their high school diploma.

Funding for the program comes from the Governor’s discretionary portion of federal Workforce Investment Act, Title 1, Dislocated Worker Funds. Dislocated worker funds are administered by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, EDD.

For information, please contact Elaine Craig, Executive Director of the Madera County Workforce Investment Board, at (559) 662-4500.

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